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## **Montana Department of Commerce Awards \$779,080 to Butte-Silver Bow Projects**

(HELENA) – Montana Department of Commerce Director Anthony Preite today awarded a total of \$779,080 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to two projects that will assist low and moderate income families in the Butte Community.

Director Preite first presented Butte-Silver Bow and the Butte Emergency Food Bank with a CDBG grant of \$329,080 for improvements to the food bank facility. Director Preite then presented a grant of \$450,000 to Butte-Silver Bow and the Western Montana Mental Health Center for the construction of the “Gilder House” psychiatric crisis stabilization facility.

“I strongly support the CDBG Program because it helps make projects like these possible,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “The Butte Emergency Food Bank and the Gilder House are both incredible assets to this community and these projects will touch the lives of many people.”

“The Montana Department of Commerce is truly honored to help these organizations take the next step in their efforts to further serve the people of Butte-Silver Bow,” said Director Preite. “These funds will help strengthen the foundation of this community and serve the very basic needs of its most vulnerable citizens.”

The \$329,080 in CDBG funds will allow the Butte Emergency Food Bank to make significant improvements to its recently-purchased building at 1019 E. Second Street. The project will install a new, insulated roof and address essential fire-safety, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and heating system repairs. The improvements will also allow the

program to expand its services to benefit low income families. The Food Bank has served the area since 1981, providing 35,000 pounds of non-perishable foods to approximately 1,000 people monthly whose incomes are at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines.

The \$450,000 in CDBG funds will assist Western Montana Mental Health Center in the construction of a new “Gilder House” facility. This new facility will provide community-based care for persons whose mental illness has risen to an acute psychiatric crisis. The new Gilder House on East Copper Street will replace the existing program located in a rental on Kossuth Avenue. The new facility will provide crisis stabilization for the local Butte community including emergency detention with both secure beds and voluntary crisis stabilization beds. The new facility will be 5000 square feet and it will also provide 24 hour - 7 day care by mental health professionals. The closest “secure bed” facility is located 25 miles away at the State Hospital at Warm Springs.

For over thirty years, the CDBG Program has played a primary role in meeting Montana’s critical infrastructure and housing needs. CDBG funds come to Montana through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Montana Department of Commerce manages the funds under an agreement with HUD. CDBG applications are evaluated and ranked by Commerce staff based upon established criteria.

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